

Digging into Our 'Hidden Collections': Maximizing Staff Skills and Technology to Enhance Access to Special Collections

Sarah Buchanan

June 23, 2012

Anaheim, Calif.

Digging into Our 'Hidden Collections':

General Background:

Context of Special Collections and Rare Books

Collection-Level Cataloging

Context: Special Collections

- “Exposing Hidden Collections” 2003 :
 - A snapshot, a turning point
- ARL survey (1998)
- ARL Special Collections Task Force (2001-2006)
- ARL Work. Grp. on Spec. Coll. (2007-09);
in the Digital Age (2010+)
- OCLC Research “Taking Our Pulse” survey
(2009-10) and UK/Ireland survey (2011-current)

Context: Special Collections

- National ideas, local procedures (catalogs, OPACs)
- Institutional descriptive goals
- Backlogs consist of...
 - Multiple collections
 - Multiple formats

CRUZCAT CATALOG

Scotty Catalog

CATALOG

InvestiGator Catalog

 GALEN

Snoopy Library Catalog

ANTIPAC


Pegasus

 OskiCat

Harvest Library Catalog

 ILLiad

PolyCAT

GOLDPAC

HOMER

WolfPAC

 Roger

PacifiCat
The Library Catalog

COAST

HAMNET

Socrates

GOLDMINE
LIBRARY CATALOG

QuickSilver

Sherlock

Name That Catalog!

CRUZCAT CATALOG

UCSC

Scotty Catalog

UCR

CATALOG

California Libraries

InvestiGator Catalog

San Francisco State Univ.

GALEN

UCSF

Snoopy Library Catalog

Sonoma State Univ.

ANTIPAC

UCI

Pegasus

UCSB

OskiCat

UCB

ILLiad

InterLibrary Loan
(WorldCat)

Harvest Library Catalog

UCD

PolyCAT

Cal Poly Univ.

GOLDPAC

Golden Gate Univ.

HOMER

USC



Roger

UCSD

WolfPAC

Library Company

Socrates

Stanford Univ.

PacifiCat
The Library Catalog

Univ. Pacific

COAST
CSULB

HAMNET

Folger

QuickSilver

CSUCI

Sherlock

Claremont Colleges

GOLDMINE

LIBRARY CATALOG

Univ. Alaska Fairbanks

(answers)

Digging into Our 'Hidden Collections'

Context: Rare Books

- a balance: the Collection ... and the Item
 - e.g. Archival objects in bibliographic collections
- Workflow consultation:
 - Archival access
 - Library technical services
 - Graduate / continuing education in both
- Environment and institutional structure

Digging into Our ‘Hidden Collections’

Context: Rare Books

- National initiatives ... Local practices

500 Field: Mandatory notes:

- Source of information if not the chief source of information.
- Any deviation from a strict transcription of evidence.
- Presence of errata.
- Presence of subscriber's lists.
- Presence of booksellers' or publishers' advertisements for pre-1830 imprints.
- Presence of wrappers or dust jackets.
- Presence of half-title pages.
- Indications of imperfection.

300 Field:

- Provide pagination and foliation statements that account for every page or leaf in the book.
- Provide an indication of bibliographical format (e.g., fol., 4to, 8vo, 12mo) when possible. This can sometimes be difficult to determine and may require the assistance of someone with special expertise. Do not guess.

DCRM(B)

In order to meet these special objectives and user needs, rare materials (see Appendix 1) should be cataloged using the manual, *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 2007), which is itself the authorized Library of Congress interpretation of AACR2 2.12-2.18 (section on “Early printed monographs”).

The following features of DCRM(B) rules and local applications should be noted in particular:

Digging into Our 'Hidden Collections'

Context: Rare Books

- Standards development
 - ALA/ACRL/RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee
 - Seven manuals (DCRM)
- Cataloging Collections
- Cataloging Items
- Purposes of description:
 - for Catalogers,
 - for Patrons,
 - access: online, onsite, preventing inst. backlogs,
 - record as surrogate or impetus (to page it!)

Collection-level Cataloging

- Why at the collection level? :
 - Monograph collection development
 - Unique provenance(s)
 - Cross-communication of institutional strengths
 - Local catalogs have institution-specific notes
 - Patron researchers
 - WorldCat Local Special Collections Task Force reports (2008-)
 - High volume = limited time to spend per item

Collection-level Cataloging

- Future directions:
 - Linking library catalog records
 - Coordination of resource guides and tools
 - Linked Data, collection codes (SPACs)
 - Small backlog, many benefits
 - Prevents duplicity, saves \$\$ (to acquire, to research-travel)

Resources

- Importance of Cataloging:
 - Fischer, Ruth and Rick Lugg. “Library of Congress Study of the North American MARC Records Marketplace.” New Hampshire: R2 Consulting LLC, Oct. 2009.
 - “Statement of International Cataloguing Principles.” Netherlands: 15+ countries, Jan. 2009. <http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/statement-of-international-cataloguing-principles>. (replaces IFLA’s Paris Principles of 1961)
 - “Testimony Submitted to the LC Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control.” Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress (compiler), 2007. <http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/>.
 - “Report of” and “Response to” WorldCat Local Special Collections and Archives Task Force. RBMS, 2008-09. http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/index.shtml
- SPACs (Special Collections and Archives Code)
 - **Buchanan**, Sarah A. Special Collections and Archives Code (SPAC): Preserving Provenance in a Bibliographic Catalog. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 49(5), 2011: 349-360.
- LIS Education (cataloging)
 - Catalogers Learning Workshop (by PCC). See also Rare Book Schools; ALISE; iSchools, etc.

Resources (cont.)

- MPLP
 - Greene, Mark A. and Dennis Meissner. “More product, less process: Revamping traditional archival processing.” *American Archivist*, 68 (2) (2005): 208-263.
 - Weideman, Christine. “Accessioning as Processing.” *American Archivist*, 69 (2) (2006): 274-283.
- RBMS publications
 - Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service, v.d. [7 monographs, appendices].
 - “Descriptive Cataloging Rules.” Bibliographic Standards Committee.
http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/index.shtml.
- Special Collections
 - “Exposing Hidden Collections.” White paper and working conference. Washington, D.C.: Association of Research Libraries, 2003. <http://www.arl.org/rtl/speccoll/hidden.shtml>.
 - Dooley, Jackie M., and Katherine Luce. “Taking our Pulse: The OCLC Research Survey of Special Collections and Archives.” Dublin, Ohio: OCLC Research, 2010.
<http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2010/2010-11.pdf>.
- UIUC: “Quick & Clean Cataloging Project.”
<http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/qnc/policies/dcrmb.html>.

Digging into Our 'Hidden Collections'

Thank you!

- Sarah A. Buchanan
sarahab@utexas.edu

Doctoral student, Information Studies, UT Austin